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PRECAUTIONS AGAINST DANGEROUS TICK BITES

The virus of Rocky Mountain spotted fever is carried by the common dog or wood tick. Even though only one in several hundred of these ticks may carry the virus, that one tick, which cannot be distinguished from the rest, is an agent of death. No cure for Rocky Mountain spotted fever is known.

Cutting all grass and underbrush around houses and pathways is a protection to both dogs and people. Removing ticks from dogs with a pair of forceps is another protective measure. Heavily infested dogs should be dusted every 5 days with derris powder. The ticks should not be touched with the hands. Infection can be contracted by crushing a tick full of blood from an animal that has had the fever.

Since ticks are usually picked up from grass or weeds close to the ground, it is well for people walking through tick-infested areas to wear boots laced up over trousers or other clothing on the legs.

Ticks always work their way upward before attaching themselves to their human host. The back of the neck and head are their favorite feeding places. Careful examination of children at least twice a day during the warm months will reveal the presence of a tick in time to get the tick off promptly and prevent a bite.

The American dog tick is widely distributed throughout the

United States east of the Rocky Mountains as well as in western and northern California and in parts of Oregon. It is most numerous along the eastern coast from Massachusetts to Florida, especially within a few miles of the shore. Both Texas and Florida have a great many ticks, also southern Iowa and parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Islands off the coasts of Massachusetts and of South Carolina are heavily infested with ticks. There are large numbers on Long Island and along Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.

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